

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 22 (currently amended). A method of forming an ID kit comprising a device for locating [identifying] a missing subject, whereby said kit is retained separately from the subject, comprising the steps of:

- providing a means for interfacing with a portable electronic storage medium;
- forming personal information about said subject on said portable storage medium;
- forming unique identifying indicia of said subject on said portable storage medium;
- forming a software program on said portable storage medium that will function as a kit which is independent of said means for interfacing.

Claim 23 (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 22 wherein said identifying indicia includes at least one of a personal information field, a photo, a streaming video, a voice recording, and fingerprints; whereby said identifying indicia is retained separately from a centralized database.

Claim 24 (previously amended) The method as set forth in claim 23 wherein the means for interfacing with said storage medium contains a memory of a computer.

Claim 25 (previously amended) The method as set forth in claim 23 wherein the storage medium includes at least one of a CD-ROM, a compact disk, a mini disk, a smart card, or any other electronic storage medium.

Claim 26 (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 24 including the step of purging said identifying indicia from said memory, prior to commencement of a new enrollment.

Claim 27 (previously amended) The method as set forth in claim 25 wherein selected portions of said identifying indicia is encrypted.

Claim 28 (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 27 wherein said kit is given to and retained by an entity having legal custody of said subject.

Claim 29 (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 27 wherein a means for decryption is provided to an appropriate authority ~~and held independent of said entity having legal custody~~ for deployment of selected portions of said indicia should the subject go missing whereby said means for decryption is retained separately from the entity having legal custody of said subject.

Claim 30 (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 27 wherein the encrypted indicia includes at least one of; fingerprints, date of birth, social security number, residence, medical conditions, and private or personal data.

Claim 31 (previously amended) The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein said ID device includes a program to update contents of said kit.

Claim 32 (currently amended) A method for providing a kit containing personal information to an appropriate authority for use in locating a missing subject, comprising the steps of;

storing on an electronic storage medium unique identifying indicia of the subject including at least one of a likeness~~photo~~, a streaming video, and a voice recording of the subject; retaining the identifying indicia ~~storage medium separate from the subject and~~ separate from a centralized data base; retaining the kit separate from the person of the subject; and, utilizing the storage medium to deliver the indicia to the authority should the subject go missing.

Claim 33 (previously amended) The method as set forth in claim 32 wherein the identifying indicia include at least one of fingerprints, date of birth, social security number, residence, and medical conditions of the subject, and including the additional steps of:

providing a means for encrypting selected portions of the identifying indicia; and, providing the authority with a means for decrypting said identifying indicia.

Claim 34 (currently amended) A method for providing a kit containing personal information to a third entity for use in locating a missing subject, comprising the steps of;

storing digital physical indicia of the subject on an electronic storage medium in a data format for direct computer dissemination; encrypting portions of the data;

giving possession of the storage medium to a second entity which is separate from, but associated with, the subject;

providing a means for an authority, with no prior association with the subject or the second entity, to decrypt portions of said data;

said means for decryption being prepared in advance of dissemination; and,
utilizing the electronic storage medium to deliver the data to said authority.

Claim 35 (currently amended) An apparatus for enrolling identification data for production of an ID kit of a subject comprising:

a means for entering personal information and identifying indicia of said subject;

a means for recording a likeness of said subject; and,

an apparatus for storing said personal information and said likeness on an electronic memory storage media such that said electronic memory storage media retains said identification data remains after being purged from said apparatus.

Claim 36 (currently amended) An apparatus for enrolling identifying data of a subject as in claim 35 wherein said combining said personal information and said picture images are on a computer memory; whereby said identifying data is retained separately from a centralized database.

Claim 37 (currently amended) An apparatus for entering identifying data as in claim 35; wherein said apparatus purges said memory upon completion of said enrollment, prior to commencement of a new enrollment.

Claim 38 (currently amended) An apparatus for use by an appropriate authority to assist in locating and identifying a missing subject comprising:

a kit comprising an electronic storage medium containing unique identifying indicia of the subject which is not stored by other means;

means for encrypting selected portions of the stored indicia; and

means for formatting said storage medium to enable direct entry of the stored indicia from the storage medium into an electronic communication system of the authority; whereby said unique identifying indicia is retained separately from a centralized database.

Claim 39 (previously amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim 38 wherein the electronic communication system includes an email.

Claim 40 (previously amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim 38 wherein the electronic communication system includes broadcast media.

Claim 41 (previously amended) An apparatus for providing personal information to an appropriate authority for use in identifying a missing subject as part of a search missing comprising;

a kit comprising electronic storage medium storing digital physical indicia of the subject in a data format for direct computer dissemination,

means for encrypting portion of the data; and,

means for decrypting said encrypted portions; and,

means for delivering said key to the authority in advance of dissemination.

Claim 42 (currently amended) A method for organizing a search for a missing individual, having stages of escalation during the search, comprising the steps of:

providing a guardian of the individual a kit including a picture ID card of the individual and an electronic storage media comprising unique identifying indicia of the individual including encrypted forensic indicia;

utilizing the picture ID to begin a stage one search should the individual go missing;

utilizing the electronic storage media to initiate a successive search, if necessary, to electronically disseminate certain identifying indicia to involved third parties; and,

utilizing a decryption key to initiate a successive search, if necessary, to electronically disseminate certain encrypted indicia of a forensic or private nature to an appropriate authority.

Claim 43 (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 42 including the step of providing at least one of a streaming video and a streaming audio of the individual as part of the stored indicia.

Claim 44 (previously amended) The method as set forth in claim 42 including the step of providing a set of digital fingerprints of the individual as part of the encrypted forensic indicia.